

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification by replacing page 6, lines 17 to 27, with the following paragraph.

--Figures 2a to ~~2f~~**2g** are schematics of another prior art process of preparing a random bead micro-array wherein Figure 2a shows any suitable support; Figure 2b shows the support coated with non-cross-linked gelling agent or precursor to a gelling agent; Figure 2c shows a fluid carrying micro-spheres bearing probes and a cross-linker for the gelling agent disposed on the support of Figure 2b; Figure 2d shows the micro-spheres of Figure 2c sinking into the layer with the gelling agent. The layer with the gelling agent undergoes sol-gel transition and thereby immobilizes the beads. Figure 2e shows the evaporation of fluid from the coating composition; Figure 2f shows the final micro-array; the beads still have a coating of polymer on their surfaces because of dissolution of gelling agent into the aqueous suspension.--